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Metropolitan Community Services Department

Community Services Division

Municipal Reference

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September 8, 1982.

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TO: The Community Services and Housing Committee

Municipal Reference

ORIGIN: Alderman Pat O'Neill

SUBJECT: Jane-Finch Project

1. Background

Over the past several years, a number of communities in Metropolitan Toronto have been identified as high need areas. One of these is the Jane-Finch area.

- Numerous press reports have highlighted social problems. With the possible exception of Parkdale, Jane-Finch has received more adverse publicity than any other community in Metropolitan Toronto.

- The 1981 Outreach Pilot Project of the Committee on Community, Race and Ethnic Relations, City of North York, identified a number of areas including Jane-Finch in which preventive measures were required to avoid long-term social costs.

- The work of the Ontario Human Rights Commission and the North York Committee has identified the existence of poor interrelationships amongst the main ethnic groups - i.e., Blacks, Latin Americans, South Asians, Italians - and their alienation from the main human service infrastructures in North York.

- The pilot project of the Department of Community Services identified the need for better collaboration and coordination between service providers in the area.

The Mayor of North York expressed concern about the situation to the Chairman of Metropolitan Toronto. Following some initial discussions, it was suggested that an Ad Hoc Task Group under my Chairmanship, be formed with representation from the Chairman's Office, Department of Community Services, the North York Committee, and the Human Rights Commission, for the purpose of developing an action plan.

The Ad Hoc group discussed a number of alternatives out of which the following priority areas were identified.

- Priority 1: The development of local leadership with the long-term goal of fostering a sense of community and a stronger community infrastructure.

- Priority 2: The need to improve access to services. Though a large number of agencies are present in the Jane-Finch area, (see Appendix A), there is a need for better linkages between the agencies, residents and all levels of government.

  Priority 3: Immediate need for summer employment programs to alleviate potential problems relating to youth unrest.

2. What Has Been Done

To date the Ad Hoc group's efforts have focused on Priority 3, with some initial work on Priority 2

- Through the cooperation of the City of North York, applications were made for four federal summer employment programs. Subsequently, two of these were approved and are underway - the North York Outreach Pilot Project - Phase II which employed a total of ten students; and the Valley Lands Conservation Project which employed fifteen students.

  The City of North York provided administrative support to both projects. The Metropolitan Toronto-Region Conservation Authority, as a result of their experience, will be hiring some of the students on a permanent part-time basis during the rest of the year.

- Another area which was explored was the potential for expansion of recreational activities in the Jane-Finch area. This was discussed with North York Parks and Recreation, the School Boards and Metropolitan Toronto Housing Authority. The major problems were that the facilities available are already extensively used and there is no money available for expansion of programs. There was full recognition of the special problems associated with high-need communities.

- A community forum was held on May 4, 1982, to consult with key community leaders and groups on the priority areas identified in the action plan. Over 100 people attended; the main issues discussed included youth employment, services to seniors, education, recreation and housing. Follow-up, issue - specific meetings were also held following the general consultation.

Many participants indicated that in order for these issues to be dealt with effectively, some basic work must be done to build trust, and a capacity in the community for residents to work together. It was generally agreed that more resources were needed at the grass roots neighbourhood level in order to assess needs and develop effective responses.

3. The Action Plan

The following unique conditions must be taken into consideration in implementing an action plan in Jane-Finch.

- Jane-Finch is not one cohesive community; it consists of several distinct neighbourhoods.
- Community leaders and representatives of neighbourhood groups must have a sense of "ownership" of the strategy.
- Local resident leadership must be developed.
- Priority issues include employment, recreation, race relations, and supportive housing.
- Agencies, institutions and residents in the area must be involved from the outset.

Following a consideration of a number of alternatives, the Ad Hoc Task Group believes that the most effective method for achieving the priorities outlined in this report is to provide six neighbourhood - based outreach workers. The main functions of these workers would include:

- identify and train existing and potential leaders;
- develop neighbourhood steering committees;
- work with existing agencies and residents in problem-solving;
- facilitate linkages between institutions and community residents.

Accountability of the workers - In order to foster a sense of "ownership" in the neighbourhood, the primary accountability of the neighbourhood outreach workers must be to the neighbourhood itself. In this regard, it is suggested that at the time that the workers are hired, there should be participation by some community residents in the hiring process. Subsequently, neighbourhood steering committees would be established to give direction to the workers.

These six workers would be hired on a contract basis. It is anticipated that the project would last for two years, at which time the community groups would be well established and capable of securing appropriate resources without intervention from either Metropolitan Toronto or the City of North York. It is important for the Metropolitan Government to test out the efficiency of this approach in using neighbourhood outreach workers. If it is successful, there are a number of other communities in North York and in other municipalities, such as Etobicoke, Scarborough, and York in which this model could be applied.

Support and overall coordination of the action plan would be provided by the Department of Community Services with an expanded ad hoc task force acting in an advisory capacity.

The Ad Hoc Task Force

The main function of this group is to provide a mechanism for key government officials to respond to initiatives emerging from the work of the neighbourhood outreach workers.

Accordingly, it is suggested that the Ad Hoc Task Force membership be expanded to include representation from the following organizations: school boards, North York Parks and Recreation, Ontario Youth Secretariat, and Metropolitan Police Department.

Specifically, the main responsibilities of the Group would be the following:

- seek out financial and other supportive resources as required; and,

- coordinate participation of the major organizations and institutions.

The Role of the Department of Community Services

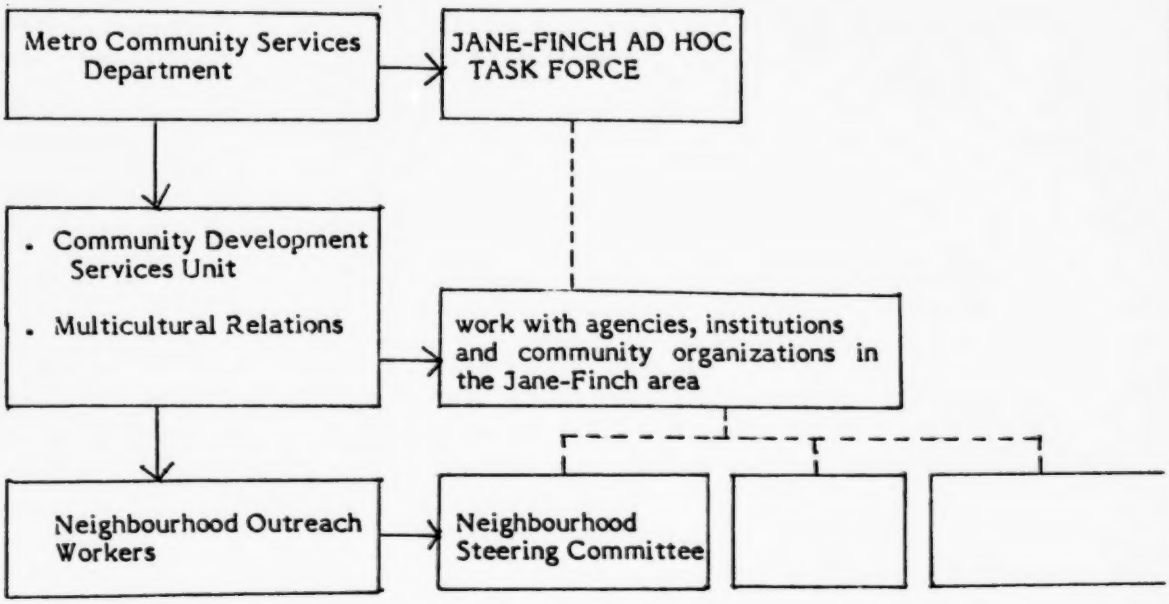
This Jane-Finch action plan complements a number of initiatives which the Department has undertaken in the past few years. Resources of the Department are required in the following areas to support the action plan:

- day-to-day supervision of the neighbourhood outreach workers;

- staff resources back-up - specifically through the Community Services Development Unit and the Multicultural Relations Coordinator.

- funding through grants or other Metropolitan programs as appropriate.

In conclusion, the relationship between the Department and the Jane-Finch Project can be summarized as follows:


Metro Community Services Department
JANE-FINCH AD HOC TASK FORCE
. Community Development Services Unit
. Multicultural Relations
work with agencies, institutions and community organizations in the Jane-Finch area
Neighbourhood Outreach Workers
Neighbourhood Steering Committee

4. Projected Annual Budget

The total annual budget for this action plan is projected at $85,000.00, with the general breakdown as outlined below:

Salaries and Benefits for 6 Neighbourhood Outreach Workers	$ 80,000.00
Other - office supplies, telephone, travel allowance etc.	5,000.00
	$ 85,000.00

In the initial stage, Metropolitan Government would undertake the responsibility to provide the necessary funding. As this proposal appears eligible for funding by the Federal Employment and Immigration Commission through its Canada Community Development Program, Metro staff will negotiate with the Federal Government. However, the wages provided under this job creation program are very low, and, consideration should be given to subsidizing the wages through a Metropolitan contribution. It is anticipated that as the neighbourhood committees come into full operation, other sources of funding would be utilized.

5. Recommendations:

It is, therefore, recommended that:

1. the Metropolitan Council approve the action plan at a total cost of $85,000.00 as set out in this report;

2. the Metropolitan Council authorize Metropolitan staff to negotiate with the Federal Government to obtain funding under the Canada Community Development Program.

Pat O'Neill

Alderman Pat O'Neill

APPENDIX A

GROUPS WORKING IN JANE-FINCH AREA

CHILDREN

Parent School Associations

a)	Driftwood 265 Driftwood Avenue	Vivian Williams
b)	Firgrove 270 Firgrove Cres.	Joyce Arthur
c)	Shoreham 31 Shoreham Drive	Diane Smoke
d)	Topcliff 65 Topcliffe Avenue	Barbara Neal
e)	Yorkwoods 25 Yorkwoods Gate	Lydia Anajar
f)	St. Augustines 98 Shoreham Drive	
g)	St. Charles Garnier 20 Stong Court	
h)	St. Francis De Sales 333 Firgrove Cres.	
i)	St. Jane Frances 2745 Jane Street	Susan Grisolia
j)	St. Martha's 1865 Sheppard Ave. W.	

Jane Finch Community & Family Centre
4400 Jane Street #108 — Wanda MacNevin

Westview Community Venture
755 Oakdale Road Portable 19 — Charmaine Edmeade

Child Care Network
26 Gosford Blvd. — Maria DeBoer

2. SENIORS

Shoreham Seniors 35 Shoreham Drive	Mr. Greenaway
Driftwood Italian Seniors 4401 Jane Street	
Driftwood Seniors 4401 Jane Street	Mrs. Trivet
Yorkwoods Italian Seniors 20 Yorkwoods Gate Blvd.	
Downsview Services to Seniors	Inge Holm
Northwood Seniors Committee 15 Clubhouse Court	Margaret Boos
Circolo Pensionati Famigliare 15 Clubhouse Court	Domenico Curio
7-11 Club - Arleta Manor 7 Arleta #121 Downsview M3L 2E2	Mrs. McFarland

3. YOUTH

Black Creek Venture Group, 4401 Jane Street, Lenore Suddes
Black Creek Probation & Parole — Brian Whitehead
2065 Finch Avenue West, Suite 509
Maroons

Firgrove Sports & Cultural Club	Mustafa
Caribbean Outreach Program	Bev Folkes
Oakdale Youth Services Clinic 800 Oakdale Road	Honey Went
Youth Employment Services 10 Turf Grassway #106	Sue Cameron
Northwood Youth Committee 15 Clubhouse Court	Tina Piacente
York Youth Connection c/o Jane Finch Community & Family Centre 4400 Jane Street #108	Wanda MacNevin

4. ADVISORY BOARDS

Driftwood Advisory Board
4401 Jane Street

Northwood Advisory Board — Thelma Cunningham
15 Clubhouse Court

5. GENERAL

DWAC — Donna Wilson
4401 Jane Street

Jane Finch Concerned Citizens — Linda Morowei
4400 Jane Street, #1010

15 Tobermory Tenants Association — c/o Dalton Jantz

Jane Finch Legal Services Board
2001 Finch Avenue West Suite 201

Division 31 Committee on Policing and Race Relations — Irene Pengally

Northwood Resource Committee — Donna Wilson
25 Yorkwoods Gate Blvd.

COSTI — Enzo Scarponi
108 Spenvalley Drive

Red Cross — Donna Wilson
25 Yorkwoods Gate Blvd.

Info Downsview — Terry Hope
4401 Jane Street

Latin American Community Centre
9 Milvan Drive Unit 9
Weston

North York Women's Shelter — Terri Robb
c/o Jane Finch Community & Family Centre
4400 Jane Street, Apt. 108
Downsview, Ontario

CHURCHES

Parish Councils

a) St. Augustines - 80 Shoreham Drive

b) St. Jane Francis - 2747 Jane Street

Lyle Memorial Baptist Church — Rev. Sharpe
Gosford P.S.
26 Gosford Blvd.

Presbyterian — Rev. Lemen
1830 Finch Avenue West

7. WORK TRAINING

Mothers on the Move — 635-0952

8. SPORTS CLUBS

Driftwood Boxing Club	Clive Banton	
Driftwood Baseball Club	Chris Morrison	
Copa Popular Soccer	Remberto Navia	
Jane Finch CSD Soccer	Gus Almeida	
St. Augustine's Soccer	Peter Iaboni	64 Blacksmith Cres.
Maroons Soccer Club	Wayne Habib	
Philippino Basketball Club	Aldolfo Tigley	
Palisades Men's Basketball	Clark Webb	
Youth Basketball	Lenore Suddes	
Ball Hockey	Chris Morrison	
Edgeley Ball Hockey	Joe Ciccoritti	
Jane Finch Aerials (Gymnastic)	Nancy Gemmell	
Yoga	Rosemarie D'Silva	
Karate	Frank Hill	
Inner-City Sports Council	Lenore Suddes	
Korean Table Tennis Club	Kyng Chu	